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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/954,772	09/18/2001	Toan Trinh	6009RXD	8802

27752 7590 09/22/2005

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIVISION
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EXAMINER

HARDEE, JOHN R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1751

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/954,772

Applicant(s)

TRINH ET AL.

Examiner

John R. Hardee

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 124 and 125 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 124 and 125 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 124 and 125 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 04192005.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Double Patenting

1. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

2. Claims 124 and 125 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5, 11, 28 and 42, at least, of U.S. Patents Nos. 6,323,172 and 6,369,025. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the '172 recites fabric softening compositions comprising the 7-carbon saturated diols presently claimed. Accordingly, the present claims are anticipated.

3. Claims 124 and 125 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 19, at least, of U.S. Patent No. 5,747,443. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the '443 recites fabric softening compositions comprising the 7-carbon saturated diols presently claimed. Accordingly, the present claims are anticipated.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

5. Claims 124 and 125 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katznellenbogen et al., Martin et al., Eliel et al., and Green et al. for the reasons of record in the previous office action.

6. Claims 124 and 125 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over FR 2,540,901. The reference discloses fabric softening compositions which are miscible in all proportions with cold water (p. 1, 1st para.) Compositions according to the invention comprise 10-50% of a glycol of up to 8 carbons which may be branched or linear (p. 3, lines 23-25.) The specific 7-carbon branched glycols recited by applicant are not disclosed. However, it would have been obvious at the tie that the invention was made to make such diols, because the reference teaches that 7-carbon branched diols generally are useful as solvents for fabric softening compositions.

7. Claims 124 and 125 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over FR 2,540,901 in view of Katznellenbogen et al., Martin et al., Eliel et al., and Green et al. The references are summarized above. The specific 7-carbon branched glycols recited by applicant are not disclosed. However, it would have been obvious at the tie that the invention was made to make such diols, because the reference teaches that 7-carbon branched diols generally are useful as solvents for fabric softening compositions, and the Martin, Eliel and Green references disclose 7-carbon diols which are simple positional isomers of the recited diols.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant argues that simple isomerism by itself does not constitute a prima facie case of obviousness, citing Mowry. This is not persuasive because the present case is much more straightforward than Mowry. In the present case, branched 7-carbon diols are broadly disclosed as suitable solvents for fabric softeners. No equivalence between branched alkyl and cycloalkyl has been posited by the examiner. Applicant further argues that the examiner has not shown an expectation of success. Success at what? All that applicant has claimed is a genus of branched 7-carbon diols. The prior art teaches that branched 7-carbon diols are useful solvents for fabric softeners. Clearly, they are successful at doing something, which is more than is claimed by applicant. Unclaimed features cannot be a basis for patentability.

9. Applicant's submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR 1.97(c) with the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) on April 19, 2005 prompted the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 609.04(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the

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shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to the examiner, Dr. John R. Hardee, whose telephone number is (571) 272-1318. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 until 4:30. In the event that the examiner is not available, his supervisor, Dr. Yogendra Gupta, may be reached at (571) 272-1316.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hardee', with a stylized, cursive script.

John R. Hardee
Primary Examiner
September 11, 2005